12:Peter E-5 (1939, 1949) 1963 AWll Kerala AWll

Thandans. With the latter, a lot of men were known for their proclivities of this sort, and they were nearly as bad as the Moplas, I was told. The latter were very much addicted to sodomy, but then it was part of their culture, and had been acquired with Islam from the Arabs.

There was no impotence or frigidity in Kerala, not with any caste, I heard. People were far from "cold" and passion, rather, was the rule. I was given a long description of the consummate art with which the higher castes indulged in amorous pleasures and assured that the lower castes had only learned from them. It seemed, however, that the Thandans could never hope to excel in these matters, especially the women who were still far from being the "angels" which those of their superiors undoubtedly were.

Asked about crime, neurosis, and insanity, my interpreters said that, to their knowledge, there was little of these in the area. As only recently, since my arrival in Shoranur, a Thandan woman had assassinated her husband, I remarked on the circumstance and asked them how they reconciled it to their statement. They replied that it was an exceptional event, and that for a long time previously, nothing of the sort had happened. People, on the whole, were docile and not aggressive. They did not even indulge in poisoning, which occurred quite frequently in other parts of the country. Again, insanity seemed to be restricted to the Moplas, who, apart from occasionally running amok as is well known, had members of their community frequently tied up in a mosque or to iron stakes, in the hope that they could thus be cured.

D. POLYANDRY AND SOCIAL CHANGE IN KERALA

Unquestionably, polyandry no longer thrives as it did in Kerala and research into what changes have brought about this situation over the last two hundred years cannot fail to be of interest. I myself, having returned to the area after an absence of ten years, was able to notice many alterations, although these were not sufficient to warrant any specific consideration. Dr A. Aiyappan, Superintendent, Government Museum, Madras, has made a particular study of the Irava community, and in his publications on this subject, and on the more special aspect of polyandry in other castes of Malabar, has shown what factors are involved and how foreign contact has undermined the old culture and is bringing a new one into existence. Readers are referred to his books and articles listed in the Bibliography. I give here a brief outline of his

31: Slater S-5 (1916-1917) 1918 AWI India
Kerala AWII

744 Inspector the outbreak of any epidemic. He makes tours in the villages; the two vaccinators in the taluk are under him. These vaccinators have to make tours in the taluk according to a programme previously laid down by the Sanitary Inspector. Public wells, tanks, cremation grounds, markets, cart-stands, etc., are also under his supervision. All towns which have no town-councils (and our town has not) are under health-officers, the Sub-Assistant Surgeon acting as the Health Officer. He attends to lighting.

625 *Police.*—Police administration is under a Sub-Inspector who has constables under him. He is under a Divisional Inspector (of whom there are three in the State) with a Superintendent of Police above him. There is, as a rule, one Sub-Magistrate for each taluk.

674 The official figures for the detection of crime are available only for a division of which there are three (A, B and C) in the State, and not for a village. The figures for the C Division, in which my village lies, are as follows:—

Cases.						Persons.						Property.					
1913–14.			1914–15.			1913–14.			1914–15.			1913–14.			1914–15.		
Charged.	Detected.	Per cent.	Charged.	Detected.	Per cent.	Tried.	Committed.	Per cent.	Tried.	Committed.	Per cent.	Lost.	Recovered.	Per cent.	Lost.	Recovered.	Per cent.
												Rs.	Rs.		Rs.	Rs.	
165	143	86·6	56	77	80·2	240	192	80	149	91	61	3,762	1,146	30·46	4,372	2,208	50·50

178 *History and Prospects of the village.*—I see no signs of economic improvement in the past; nor is there much deterioration worth speaking about. There has been, however, an increase in population in recent times. There has been no diversity of occupation. The same routine of paddy cultivation goes on with the old primi- [454] tive tools and implements. Much capital is not invested even for agricultural improvements for the excellent reason that the small landholders who form the majority cannot afford to experiment on a grand scale, and the few big landholders are sleeping partners distributing their holdings to small men for rent. Nevertheless there are opportunities for economic improvement. The establishment of co-operative credit societies is an urgent need. An "Agricultural Society" consisting of members of the occupation could be conveniently started to diffuse modern scientific ideas in agriculture by distributing pamphlets in the vernacular and discussing questions of importance. A little more attention could be given to the rearing of agricultural stock and the use of agricultural implements. As irrigation does not depend for the most part upon wells in our parts, there is no use in multiplying them.

454 People buy land because land is the best form of investment